



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

01-0728  
SDMS # 280181

March 9, 2004

Mr. Andrew T. Silfer  
Corporate Environmental Programs  
General Electric Company  
100 Woodlawn Avenue  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Comments on GE's 14 January 2004 *Pre-Design Investigation/ Soil Evaluation Report and Conceptual Removal Design/Removal Action Work Plan for Phase 2 Floodplain Properties Adjacent to the 1 1/2-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River*, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the pre-design investigation activities for the above-referenced (Report). The Report is subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Consent Decree (CD) that was entered in U.S. District Court on October 27, 2000.

Pursuant to Paragraph 73 of the CD, EPA, after consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), approves the above-referenced submittal for the Phase 2 Properties.

As stated in Section 5 of the Report (Future Activities and Schedule), General Electric shall discuss the following with EPA:

1. The appropriate timing for conducting a pre-certification inspection and submitting a Final Completion Report for the Phase 2 properties to EPA.
2. The appropriate timing for the City of Pittsfield to issue an (ERE) for Parcel I8-4-7, which is currently designated as a recreational area.

EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions in these areas, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1268.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nalipinski  
GE Facility Project Manager

cc: Richard Gates, GE  
James Bieke, Shea & Gardner  
Jim Nuss, BB&L  
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